

REMARKS

Summary of Changes Made

The Application was filed with 44 claims, claims 5-7, 20-26, 29-31, and 39 were previously canceled, and claims up to 53 were previously added. Applicants hereby elect without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-4, 8-19, 32-38 and 41. Presently, claims 28 and 40 are amended in an attempt to bring the subject matter of Groups II and III into Group I. Claim 27 is canceled. Claim 41 has been canceled as its subject matter is covered by amended claim 40, while claims 46-53 are withdrawn as drawn to non-elected inventions.

Accordingly, claims 1-4, 8-19, 28, 32-38, 40, and 42-53 (38 claims) remain pending, while all of the foregoing except claims 46-53 remain under consideration. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has divided the invention into distinct groups of claims, believing that they relate to different inventions under PCT Rule 13.1, requiring election of a single invention under 37 C.F.R. 1.499:

Group I, claims 1-4, 8-19, 32-38 and 41 drawn to an article.

Group II, claims 27 and 28, drawn to an article.

Group III, claims 40 and 42-45, drawn to an article.

Group IV, claims 46-49 and 53, drawn to a method.

Group V, claims 50-52, drawn to a method.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims of Group I. The amendments to claims 28 and 40 are not intended as traverse to the restriction requirement, however, but represent an attempt to bring the subject matter of Groups II and III into Group I. Based on the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 1-4, 8-19, 28, 32-38, 40, and 42-45 now belong to the invention of group I, which is elected herein.

If the Examiner persists in the belief that the subject matter of claims 28, 40, and 42-45 do not belong to the same invention as the Group I claims, Applicants request that claims 28, 40, and 42-45 be withdrawn and that the claims earlier identified by the Examiner as Group I claims be examined on the merits.

The claims of Groups IV and V are method claims. Applicants withdraw such claims, but do not cancel them herein. Such claims are to remain pending in the hope that rejoinder is possible once at least one article claim is found patentable, as mentioned on page 4 of the Office Action and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.104.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including claims 1-4, 8-19, 28, 32-38, 40, and 42-45, is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. IWI-16783.

Respectfully submitted,

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